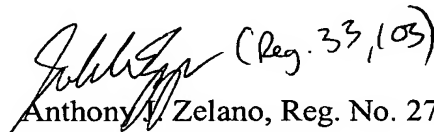


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. 33,103)
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Date:2 JULY 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) 17 β -Hydroxy-19-halogen-androsta-4,9(11)-dien-3-ones according to ~~one~~
~~of claims 1 or 2,~~claim 1, characterized by

17 β -Hydroxy-19-iodo-androsta-4,9(11)-dien-3-one,

17 β -Hydroxy-19-¹²⁵iodo-androsta-4,9(11)-dien-3-one or

19-Bromo-17 β -hydroxy-androsta-4,9(11)-dien-3-one.

4. (Amended) Process for the production of 17 β -hydroxy-19-halogen-androsta-4,9(11)-
dien-3-ones of general formula I according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~claim 1, wherein starting from
3,3-(2,2-dimethyl-trimethylenedioxy)-10 β -formyl-androst-9(11)-ene-5 α ,17 β -diol

- a) The C-17 β -hydroxy group is protected by silylation,
- b) The 10 β -formyl group is reduced to the C-19-hydroxy compound,
- c) The thus produced 17 β -silylated-3,3-(2,2-dimethyl-trimethylenedioxy)-androst-9(11)-ene-5 α ,19-diol is reacted with elementary halogen or radiohalogen, selected from Br or I, to form 17 β -silylated-3,3-(2,2-dimethyl-trimethylenedioxy)-19-halogen-androst-9(11)-en-5 α -ol,
- d) Water is cleaved off, and
- e) The thus produced isomer mixture that consists of 17 β -silylated-3,3-(2,2-dimethyl-trimethylenedioxy)-19-halogen-androsta-5,9(11)-diene and 17 β -silylated-3,3-(2,2-dimethyl-trimethylenedioxy)-19-halogen-androsta-4,9(11)-diene is mixed with a strong protonic acid for the formation of target compounds I.

6. (Amended) Process according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the halogen or radiohalogen is added in a small excess.

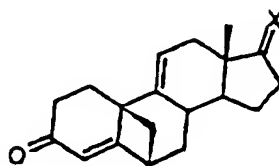
7. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims 4 to 6~~, claim 4, wherein the dehydration is carried out under standard conditions, preferably with thionyl chloride/pyridine.

8. (Amended) Process according to ~~one of claims 4 to 7~~, claim 4, wherein trifluoroacetic acid, sulfuric acid or methanesulfonic acid is used as a strong protonic acid.

9. (Amended) Use of the compounds of general formula I according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as a diagnostic agent.

11. (Amended) Use of the non-labeled compounds of general formula I according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as starting products for the production of 5 β -substituted androst-9(11)-enes of general formula II with radical R in the meaning of: $R = -(CH_2)_n-CH_2-R^1$, $-(CH_2)_n-CH_2-OR^1$, $-(CH_2)_n-CH_2-OCOR^1$, $-(CH_2)_n-CH_2-SR^1$, $-(CH_2)_n-CH_2-NR^1R^2$, $-(CH_2)_n-CHO$, $-(CH_2)_n-CN$, in which n can assume the values of 0-5, and radicals R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, stand for hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical with up to 18 C atoms, whereby this radical optionally can contain additional functional groups and carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring elements.

15. (Amended) Use of the non-labeled compounds of general formula I according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 as starting products for the production of 6 β ,19-cycloandrosteradienes of general formula III, in which X = O or the grouping 17 β -OR, 17 α -H, with R in the meaning of H, C1-C10-alkyl, C1-C10-acyl, whereby the acyl radical is derived from an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid.



III

19. (Amended) Process according to claim 17 ~~or 18~~, wherein the base treatment is carried out in an aprotic solvent.